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SRDC ITEMS OF INTEREST

SRDC Releases Evaluation of Southern Rural Community College Initiative

As a capstone to the Rural Community College Initiative (RCCI) program coordinated by the Southern Rural Development Center and the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development from 2002-2007, the SRDC has released an evaluation of the RCCI program in the Southern Region. Authored by Priscilla Salant and Stephanie Kane of the University of Idaho, the report examines four key questions that are crucial in determining the success of the effort in the region. Through site visits to every RCCI team and discussions with RCCI college administrators, land-grant university faculty and residents of the colleges' service areas, the report examines the Ford Foundation's expectations of the program as well as the realities of implementation by the Initiative's partners. To learn more about the RCCI and view the report, visit <http://srdc.msstate.edu/>.

SRDC Launches National e-Commerce Webinar Series

Serving entrepreneurs, educators and community leaders, the curricula survey a wide variety of e-commerce topics including broadband access in rural communities, farm business management, artisan businesses online, and more to come. This valuable series is hosted by the Southern Rural Development Center and is co-sponsored by the eXtension "Entrepreneurs and Their Communities" team. To hear from the authors and learn exciting information about e-commerce, check out the Webinars on the following dates:

Connecting Rural Communities Webinar

October 27, 2008
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. CST

Internet Strategies to Improve Farm Business Management Webinar

November 11, 2008
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. CST

Helping Artisans Reach Global Markets Webinar

November 20, 2008
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. CST

Strengthening Competitive Advantage of Rural Businesses with e-Commerce and Experience Economy Strategies

December 16, 2008

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. CST

Future topics will include case studies from small business across America and e-commerce with tourism and destination based businesses. More information about these Webinars and the National e-Commerce Extension Initiative can be found at

<http://srdc.msstate.edu/ecommerce>.

2008 e-Commerce Curricula Request for Grant Proposals Released

The Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) is pleased to announce a new initiative to foster implementation of one of its new e-commerce curricula. U.S. Land-Grant Extension educators or teams are invited to submit proposals outlining how they propose to implement one of the FOUR new e-commerce educational curricula that the SRDC has released, or is scheduled to release, over the next two to three months. The maximum amount allowed for any proposal is \$3,000. To view the one-hour Webinar discussing the initiative in detail and to learn more about the National e-Commerce Extension Initiative's Web site at

<http://srdc.msstate.edu/ecommerce>.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

eXtension Releases Entrepreneurs & Their Communities Webinar Series

The Entrepreneurs & Their Communities team offers a free monthly Webinar on a variety of issues of interest to small business owners, farmers, business coaches and mentors. Upcoming topics include: "Effective Networking Tips and Techniques for the Business Owner," "Next Level eMarketing," "A Real Story about E-Commerce," and "Maximizing Your Pay-Per-Click Campaign." The Webinars are presented live on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm (eastern), 1:00 pm (central), 12:00 pm (mountain) and 11:00 am (pacific). All Webinars are [recorded and archived](#) for on-demand viewing. For more information about the Webinars including the schedule, visit

http://www.extension.org/pages/Entrepreneurs_and_Their_Communities_Webinar_Series.

Sea Grant Consortium Releases RFP for Community Resiliency Projects

The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (MASGC), in cooperation with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Storms Program (CSP), is seeking proposals to fund community resiliency related projects. Local governments, non-profits, homeowner associations, business organizations, and community/university partnerships are eligible. The CSP is a nationwide effort to help coastal residents reduce the impacts that storms have on their families, communities, property and environment. The program has a history of providing an array of tools and services in the pilot areas, which have included improved observing systems, forecast models, decision support tools, and outreach

and extension activities to enhance community resilience. Letters of Intent are due on October 20, 2008, and full proposals are due on January 9, 2009. To view the full proposal, visit http://srdc.msstate.edu/newsletters/documents/coastal_storms_prog_req.pdf.

Forum For Youth Investment 2008-2009 Webinar Series Announced

The Forum for Youth Investment, an organization dedicated to ensuring all young people are prepared for college, life and work by age 21, has announced its upcoming Webinar series. The Webinars will focus on three key strategies to help ensure all young people have ample opportunities to succeed: engaging stakeholders, data collection and planning tools, and a blueprint for action. Visit the Web site for a full list of the Webinars, with descriptions of each. Dates for the Webinars are tentative, so be sure to sign up for their e-mail newsletter to receive the Webinar specifics as they are announced. Find more information at <http://forumfyi.org/readyby21>.

In Heated Election Season, a Portrait of a Disengaged Small Town

Discussing the issue of civic engagement in the rural South, a recent Washington Post article discusses Canton, Mississippi whose 13,000 member population seem uninterested in the 2008 presidential election. Such disinterest is concerning considering that Canton was once a hotbed of voting rights activity. Residents in Canton, which struggles with high unemployment and a 50 percent high school dropout rate, express little faith that decisions made in Washington, DC can have any effect on their daily lives. Is Canton an anomaly, or does it mirror the experience of many small Southern towns? View the full article at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/>.

Cities in Alabama, North and South Carolina Rank among Best Performing

The Milken Institute/Greenstreet Real Estate Partners *Best-Performing Cities* Index for 2008 shows four Southern Growth member states with cities in the top 10. The index establishes rankings based on economic growth, including *long-term and short-term measurements of employment and salary growth plus indicators of high-tech output*. This year's winners include cities with strong high-tech, energy and international trade sectors. Read the full report at <http://www.milkeninstitute.org/publications/publications.taf>.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SRDC's Grant Connections: Rural Development Funding Opportunities

Volume 10, Number 7, October 2008.

The latest issue will be released October 31 at http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/gc_oct08.html

The SRDC staff compiles Grant Connections primarily for the faculty of land-grant colleges and universities in the South to provide funding information in support of activities in agricultural

economics, education, human sciences, rural sociology, youth development and other related disciplines.

CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS

Tomorrow's Workforce: Strategies for Appalachia's Future

October 22-23, 2008

Tupelo, Mississippi

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/>

Esperanza: A Conference for Uniting, Dreaming and Making It Happen

October 22-24, 2008

Georgetown, Kentucky

<http://srdc.msstate.edu/trainings/esperanza.pdf>

Making Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Count for Planners and Resource Managers

October 23-24, 2008

Arlington, Virginia

<http://www.socialimpactassessment.net/WashingtonDCSIACourse.htm>

Entrepreneurship: Where Practice & Theory Meet

November 6-7, 2008

St. Louis, Missouri

<http://mcquinn.missouri.edu/>

Creating Entrepreneurial Communities

November 19, 2008

Lansing, Michigan

<http://www.cecmi.msu.edu/>

Facing Global Crises: Local Solutions to Energy, Food and Persistent Poverty

Professional Agricultural Workers Conference

December 7-9, 2008

Tuskegee, Alabama

<http://www.pawc.info>.

2009 National Jeanne Priester Extension Health Conference

April 6-8, 2009

Indianapolis, Indiana

<http://continuingeducation.ncsu.edu/PNEHC/>

NACDEP 2009: Creating Sustainable Communities in a Changing America

April 20-22, 2009

San Diego, California.

<http://www.nacdep.net/>

National Extension Tourism Conference

June 14-17, 2009

Park City, Utah

<http://www.rpts.tamu.edu/tce/NET/Conference.htm>

Analyzing Poverty and Socioeconomic Trends Using the American Community Survey

June 22-26, 2009

Ann Arbor, Michigan

<http://www.npc.umich.edu/opportunities/papers/analyzingpovert>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Agricultural Economist, Economic Research Service/USDA

View announcement:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/AboutERS/Employment/OpportunitiesPage.htm>

Assistant Professor, Agriculture and Extension Education, North Carolina State University

View announcement:

http://srdc.msstate.edu/newsletters/documents/ncsu_extension_leadership_position_announcement.doc

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Auburn University

View announcement:

<http://southernsociologicalsociety.org/joblist%20postings/Auburn%20listing.pdf>

Director of Workforce Development, Regional Technology Strategies

View announcement:

http://srdc.msstate.edu/newsletters/work_director.doc

Economics, CSREES Economic and Community Systems Unit Intergovernmental Personal Act (IPA)

View announcement:

http://srdc.msstate.edu/newsletters/documents/econ_ipa_announcement.doc

Forestry Program Manager, Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED)

View announcement:

<http://www.maced.org/forestry-ad.htm>

Professor and Assistant Dean, Agriculture and Natural Resources and Resource Development,

the University of Tennessee Extension

View announcement:

http://srdc.msstate.edu/newsletters/documents/professor_and_assistantdeanut.pdf

Project Manager, Industrial Outreach Service, Mississippi State University

View announcement:

http://srdc.msstate.edu/newsletters/documents/project_manager_%20%20job_announcement.pdf

Strategic Initiatives Director, Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED)

View announcement:

<http://www.maced.org/SID-ad.html>

Wyoming Excellence Chair in Community Development, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

View announcement:

<http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/HREmployment/showjob.asp?jobid=3186>